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Date April 7, 2004

Nancy L. Swanson  
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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

**Present Application :**

Applicant : D. Chien and P. Arcangel  
Title : Hepatitis C Viral Antigen Immunoassay Detection Systems  
Docket No. : PP-01445.007  
Date : April 7, 2004

**Prior Application :**

Examiner : Mary Mosher  
Art Unit : 1648  
Application No. : USSN 10/048,191

**PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT**

Mail Stop PATENT APPLICATION  
Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

Please enter the following claim amendments before examining the continuation patent application referenced above.

Amendments to the claims begin on page 2 of this paper.

Amendments to the specification begin on page 5 of this paper.

Remarks begin on page 6 of this paper.